

July 11, 2007

MILITARY LEADERS CALL FOR A NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ

Lt. Gen. William Odom (retired)

“A wise commander in this situation normally revises his objectives and changes his strategy, not just marginally, but radically. Nothing less today will limit the death and destruction that the invasion of Iraq has unleashed. No effective new strategy can be devised for the United States until it begins withdrawing its forces from Iraq. Only that step will break the paralysis that now confronts us.” [[April 28, 2007](#)]

Lt. Gen. Robert Gard (retired)

“These troops are not expendable commodities to fulfill the pipe-dream vision of a group of people trying to remake the world in our image...It's time for us to get the hell out of there.” [[Concord Monitor, June 24, 2007](#)]

Lt. Gen. John Johns (retired)

“The situation in Iraq today is chaos, and there is absolutely zero chance of this surge working... this is just ‘Mission Impossible.’” [[June 28, 2007](#)]

Maj. Gen. John Batiste (retired)

“Iraq is distracting America from what should be the focus of main effort...It is in America's best interest to rethink our national strategy, deliberately disengage from Iraq, refit and rearm our military, get serious about homeland security, and prepare to win the next phase of the struggle against worldwide Islamic extremism.” [[UPI, July 2, 2007](#)]

Col. Richard Klass (retired)

“In the military there is a dictum: ‘lead, follow or get out of the way.’ The nation is no longer willing to follow the president's lead on the same failed course. The president should not continue to follow the failed policies of the past. If he cannot join a bipartisan Congressional effort, he should get out of the way.” [[July 10, 2007](#)]

...Will Republicans Vote to Back Up Their Rhetoric And End This War?

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN)

“In my judgment, our course in Iraq has lost contact with our vital national security interests in the Middle East and beyond. Our continuing absorption with military activities in Iraq is limiting our diplomatic assertiveness there and elsewhere in the world...The President and some of his advisors may be tempted to pursue the surge strategy to the end of his administration, but such a course contains extreme risks for U.S. national security. ... We need to...re-establish a broad consensus on the role of the United States in the Middle East. If we do that, the United States has the diplomatic influence and economic and military power to strengthen mutually beneficial policies that could enhance security and prosperity throughout the region.” [[June 25, 2007](#)]

Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH)

“A policy of responsible military disengagement with a corresponding increase [in] non-military support is the best way to advance our nation’s interests in Iraq and achieve our primary goals.” [[June 26, 2007](#)]

Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM)

“There's nothing to wait for. Almost everybody that has any knowledge of the reports . . . would indicate they are not going to show any degree of a big change that we needed. And so we're just wasting time.” [[Albuquerque Tribune, July 11, 2007](#)]

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

“The problem with the president's current strategy...is that the surge seems to be the entire strategy. There's no answer to what comes after that.” [[AP, July 11, 2007](#)]

Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

“Because it is abundantly clear that Iraq’s feuding sects will continue to choose bloodshed over reconciliation, now is the time to end the surge and transition our overall mission in Iraq to the limited anti-terrorism and related objectives.” [[Bangor Daily News, July 10, 2007](#)]

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)

“June and May were among the bloodiest months of any since we've been there, and what has the Maliki government done? Virtually nothing.” [[Washington Post, July 11, 2007](#)]

Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)

“Our commitment in Iraq is not indefinite, nor should the Iraqi government perceive it to be. It is my firm hope and belief that we can start bringing our troops home in 2008.” [[AP, July 11, 2007](#)]

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR)

“We need to be fighting terrorists, not civil wars...Iraq’s peace is one they must win on their own. We cannot win it for them. Our might should be focused on stopping terrorists who are plotting to bring harm to the United States.” [[AP, July 10, 2007](#)]